Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It was estimated at about 24 thousand rupees. The Government thought that the cost was rather high and decided that, this work had to be postponed for the present. That is the Government position. In, case they require a ferry, Government will be only too pleased to have a ferry service during the times of floods.

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—Is it free?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—No. Not a free ferry, but just like other ferries, at only a very nominal charge.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. എൻ. ഇട്ടിരവി നമ്പൂതിരി.—വണ്ടികൊണ്ടു പോകുവാൻ തക്കവണ്ണം ഒരു റോഡ് വേണമെന്നുപറയുന്നില്ല. മറുകരയ്ക്കു പോയിവരത്തക്കവണ്ണം ആളുകൾക്കു നടന്നുപോകുവാൻ ഒരു വഴി കിട്ടിയാൽ മതി.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Sir, I made a mistake. The ferry service will be free.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. എൻ. ഇട്ടിരവിനമ്പൂതിരി.—ഫ്രീആയി ഒരു കടത്ത് ഇടുവാൻ ഗവൺമെന്റ് സമ്മതിക്കുന്നതിനാൽ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഞാൻ ഇതു പാസ്സ് ചെയ്യുന്നില്ല.

Resolution withdrawn with leave of the House.

11. Radio Broad-casting Installation.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—The resolution that I wish to move is this:—"This Council recommends to the Government that a Radio-Broadcasting Installation be erected in the State at a suitable centre".

I feel myself considerably handicapped in moving this resolution, for, I lack the technical knowledge that is necessary to explain fully the effect—nay, I would even say the blessings—that will be bestowed on the people of Cochin if an installation like this is established. But though I myself cannot explain it in full, I have to quote one who knows a good deal about this and who has given expression to it on a recent date. I think I cannot do better than quote his own words with regard to the radio installation that has been erected at Madras not very long ago. Hon'ble Members may remember that Lord Lothian, the Chairman of the Franchise Committee, visited Madras recently and he delivered a broad-casting address on Franchise problems. Fortunately, this address was delivered in the Studio of the Radio Station erected in Madras. He said on speaking about the value of broad-casting 'it is a very great pleasure to me", said Lord Lothian prefacing his address, "to address to you to-night on some Franchise prob'em. I am all the more glad to do so from the Studio of the Madras Corporation, because of the enterprise it has shown in introducing broad-casting into this part of India. Broad-casting has transformed life for hundreds of millions of people in Europe and America. It has transformed and wakened up and brought happiness into millions of homes which, otherwise, would not have had the money or the time or the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

opportunity to enjoy the music, or the literature, the criticism, the information or the amusement which it is now possible for broad-casting system to spread into every home in the land at infinitesimal cost. It is a fine thing that the Madras Corporation had set the lead". If it is proved to be so good an advantage for the Madras Corporation, I say it is high time that the Cochin Government also should feel the pride in erecting another, though at a less cost, for the benefit of at least the people of the Cochin State.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Ernakulam.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Yes, Ernakulam. The name of Ernakulam itself is a red rag to some bulls coming from the north. I know it and therefore it is that I have carefully worded my resolution 'at a suitable centre'. I know that if I had mentioned Ernakulam in this connection, as the place where the installation has to be erected, I would not have had even the support of the very few that may support it to-day. But having mentioned the subject, I may inform the House that if precautions are taken it makes no difference so far as the whole Cochin State is concerned, whether the installation is at Trichur or at Ernakulam, for, the installation will be sufficient even if it is erected in Ernakulam, to benefit the people of Trichur, not only the people of Trichur, but even the distant eastern parts of Chittur. Therefore I do not think that the question of location is a difficulty in the matter.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—What will be the financial commitment?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—So far as my enquiries have gone, the installation will cost not more than 15 thousand rupees, because my information with regard to the installation that is erected in Madras is that it has cost only about 10 thousand rupees. But I know the reason also why it cost only 10 thousand rupees. It is because they had ready hand studio machinery, most parts of which alone could be made use of and that they made use of and for the remaining part they went for new things. Therefore it is that it cost them only about 10 thousand rupees.

I said the question of location is immaterial so far the State is concerned, when we consider that if a sufficiently strong set is set up, the distant parts of Cochin as well would easily be benefited. The only difference is that loud speaking equipments will have to be supplied in the different centres where people are willing to take up or to be benefited by these. And when there is a loud speaking equipment whether it is in Ernakulam or Trichur, or even in Chittur, it will not make any difference in the State so far as I am aware.

Now the immediate benefit that could be derived, though I am not fully competent to speak on the subject, I might say are

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

many, music, amusements, and amusements in other ways by lectures can be had from this erection of broadcasting system. Patients in the hospitals may be benefited, students in schools may be benefited and if I may say also, in a way even the commercial part of the Cochin population also can be benefited, if there is any arrangement of transmission for commercial news. Of course I do not feel myself competent to speak elaborately on the subject. The only point that I wish to emphasise in conclusion is, that the question may be seriously considered by the Government and it should not be shelved on that ever-securing plea of want of funds. (*Hear, hear.*) No doubt in these hard times both for people as well as the Government, the question of finance is an important matter. But if I am not far wrong, what I will say is that if there is a will there is a way. After all the commitment will not be, according to my estimate which I do not profess to be very accurate, even with the establishment of loud-speaking equipments in three or four centres of the Cochin State, more than 20 thousand or at the utmost 25 thousand.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Will it be a remunerative enterprise?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—If you have a mind to make it remunerative I do not think it is impossible. Now having asked the question I may just inform my Hon'ble Colleague that there is a law passed whereby there is the licensing fee prescribed for the receiving sets of 10 rupees each and if we get 500 people who are interested in receiving the news, or being amused occasionally at a cost of 10 rupees a year, I think the enterprise will certainly become remunerative. Of course I did not go that length to say, because I do not think at the present condition of the country and the people, there will be many people applying for license especially because, though the license is prescribed under the laws, the Penal Code has not been sub-joined. I respectfully beg to request the House to consider the question not only from the point of Finance but also from the point of instruction and amusement that could be supplied to the farthest corners of the State at an infinitesimal cost. I say infinitesimal cost, because for a Government which prides itself in having an income nearing a crore, 25 thousand is not much.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Sir, I have great pleasure in seconding this resolution, but before I enter the subject I am afraid to hear that the Hon'ble Member has a poor opinion of us, who come from the Northern parts of Cochin State. The great pity of it is that he misunderstood all our motives. We were only anxious to do what we can and just to give a proof of our sin-

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

cerity, I have risen to support this measure. I believe it must have come as a shock to him to think that the Northerners could have ventured to support my Hon'ble friend (*Laughter*). We have closely listened to the speech and the peculiarity of the speech is that nothing is definite. It is a very safe way of delivering a speech when you are dealing with money matters, as my Hon'ble Members were doing in the College business yesterday. They will never be too sure.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Is the Hon'ble Member opposing the resolution?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—No, no. I want only to show that they are always finding out some loopholes through which they can escape if an occasion arose. He has only used the words 'as far as I can get', 'as far as I can make a calculation', 'as far as I can understand' and so on, and now in this way he has given an elaborate lecture upon a most interesting subject, broad-casting, the cost of which is not exactly based on sound basis.

Now, though I second the proposition, it is only a conditional support, as the speech was a conditional one with a number of reservations. (*Laughter*). One reservation you would like to know, whether the amount calculated by him approaches anywhere near the reality. I hope our Chief Engineer will be in a position to enlighten us on the subject.

The second point I want to point out to you is, that if you have determined to have an apparatus of broad-casting business, then this is the time for you to consider the proposition. Because he is going to have a central place for that. Unfortunately providence has made Trichur a central place and nobody can blame providence for that.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—I never said central place. But I only said a suitable centre.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Suitable centre means central place. Then Ernakulam or Chittur cannot be the central place. Therefore if you are going to have a central place, that must go to Trichur which happens to be the centre of the State. The wisdom of providence is behind dispute. If you are going to have it in a central and suitable place for the whole of the Cochin State then it may be to your interests to inform us, because we are going to have a grand Municipal building with a tower to be made use of. I am not joking. We are having a Municipal Office building with a clock tower. I again repeat it. We are dealing with the Trichur Municipality and not with Ernakulam. If you want this tower to be constructed in such a way as to utilise it for the purpose, you would better inform us

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

within a reasonable time. It is only just to give this intimation to this House that I support this motion.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Sir, I also beg to support this motion, and I may say that my support is not with so many reservations and conditions. It is a full-hearted support. (*Hear, hear*). I am glad to do so, because the resolution seeks to revive a project which some 4 years ago was recommended by the Economic Development Committee of the State. It was on 20th Medam 1104 that the Committee passed a resolution on the necessity of the installation of a broad-casting bureau in the State, with a view to use the wireless for the education, and recreation of the village population. This resolution was referred to the Chief Engineer for an estimate and his estimate which was based on a 25 miles radius, came to Rs. 10,500. The Committee then applied to the Government for an additional allotment during the year, but the Government was pleased to reply that the time for moving an additional allotment in the Council was over. Again, provision was made by the Economic Development Committee for the same purpose in the Budget for 1106. But then, too, it was not sanctioned for want of funds. I am glad, therefore, that a resolution has now come to this House, reviving this old scheme, which is full of possibilities in the matter of education and recreation in the State. I am led to understand by the Chief Engineer himself that this scheme, if it is to embrace the whole Cochin State, has to be based on a 50 miles radius, in which case the cost might go up to 25 thousand rupees. I presume or I submit that even 25 thousand rupees, spent on this purpose in Cochin, would be very usefully spent when we consider the many advantages we could derive from such an installation in a suitable centre in our State. Some of the advantages have already been referred to, and I do not want to give an elaborate speech on this aspect of the question, because we have the great authority of Lord Lothian himself in the matter. I am sure this system of radio broad-casting has become very popular, especially in the sphere of education. That was our original idea when the question was mooted in the Economic Development Committee. In a country called Czecho-Slovakia, in the west it would seem that every farmer's house is connected with a central broad-casting agency. They receive all kinds of information on the radio. There is a very detailed programme and occasional lectures are given. Instruction is given on the keeping of cattle and bees on methods of milking, on agricultural problems of all kinds—selection of seeds, manure, etc., etc. All this instruction is given to them on the radio, and the programme is diversified by the inclusion in it, of certain items of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

recreation and amusement; occasional songs are transmitted, and such other things that give amusement to the village folk. The advantage would be, that while it is rather difficult to make the people read papers—Reading is rather dry—you can easily make them listen to this variety programme, especially when it is inter-mixed with news and items of amusement. Thus the information that is conveyed by this method, would go directly home. Consider the numerous advantages which could thus be conferred to the various sections of our people. For instance, our original idea in Trichur was that the outlying primary schools could be connected and the students may be given the chance of hearing something on the radio. If the whole Cochin State is connected by the radio to a Central agency, we can have a very varied and interesting and instructive programme of education and recreation.

All classes, agriculturists, student population, commercial classes and even respectable individual citizens of the State, would all be benefited by this varied programme, which would go out to them on this broad-casting machine. All people would be eager for it. It is a very pleasant recreation given to them. I think, all aspects considered, considering the cost and advantages together, this scheme is a very commendable one. I, therefore, request that the House will take it seriously and commend it to the attention of the Government.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—May I know what would be the probable cost?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Four years ago as the Member for Adoor stated, I had occasion to go into this question of installing a radio broad-casting unit in the State. I got in touch with the Indian Broad-casting Company in Bombay and asked the experts as to whether they could give me an idea as to the cost of this installation. They said that for a set suitable for a 25 mile radius, that is for a set which will command an area of 25 miles radius, the cost would be Rs. 10,500. But now when I asked them again, I am informed that the cost will be larger. They said that due to increase in duty and things like that, they had to increase the price to about Rs 25,000. Of course it is unnecessary for me to say the advantages of having a broad-casting machine in the State. Its advantages are many-sided. For no expenditure at all, the people in the villages could listen to the music of their own favourites and also of popular gramaphone records. Again in the matter of transmitting news of Government publications, it will be a very useful agency. The cost of maintaining a station may be about 4 to 5 thousand rupees a year, including the hire of musicians. I think

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

that is the figure which the Madras Corporation spend for this item.

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—No receipts?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—If you install a radio broad-casting station in Cochin it is very likely that many people will come in to listen to music and to other programmes in their own homes and one set would mean to Government a revenue of 10 rupees per year. As conditions are at present, there is no broad-casting station in India which would command Cochin in a satisfactory manner. Even the powerful set in Bombay can cover a guaranteed rate of only 150 miles and Cochin is about 600 miles from Bombay. That is the reason why even with the best of sets—I have got an 8 valve set at home—it is not possible to get any message from Bombay during day time at all. It is only after 7 o'clock that I could get some and it is impaired by atmospheric and other disturbances. The Western Ghats affects to a very great extent the proper reception of the messages. If we have got a station in the State, it will be possible for people here to have a fairly good reception with comparatively cheap receiving sets. That would mean a multiplication of a large number of sets by people and this would bring in revenue. The position of the Government is that they are willing to accept this resolution. But they want to say that it will cost about Rs. 25,000 and in this time of depression they may not be able to find funds.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Sir, I shall also gladly give my support to this resolution without any reservation. Regarding the utility of a radio installation here, I don't think it is necessary for me to speak anything. The only possible objection that can come from the Government is the question of expenditure. But I think in these matters, we should not always be very calculative. Rs. 25,000 we may have to spend. I think we have spent a similar sum or something more for the Irwin Park and now nobody is sorry for that.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—We are.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I see there are people who are sorry, namely the Northerners. Whatever that may be, I don't think that was money badly spent and that is the view of the majority. There are some items of expenditure which are absolutely necessary. Life is not merely eating and drinking alone. There are certain other items which go to form the well-being of a human being. I think Rs. 25,000 spent for a radio set here, will, when its advantages are considered, be only a trifling sum. I think the Government should find their way to spend that amount. Again I say that I am supporting in the way in which the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Hon'ble Member for Cheruthuruthy did, that is to have it, if it can be had, at Trichur. I suppose it is much more convenient to locate it in the Irwin Park. Perhaps we cannot find a better place. Transmission of messages from Bombay will be easier here. The Hon'ble Member for Engineering said how transmission is effected by atmospheric disturbances. It can be better carried on here. At any rate, Government ought not to hesitate in spending such a small sum of money especially when all the advantages are considered properly and understood.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ.—ഈ ബ്രാഡ കാസ്റ്റിങ്ങ് എന്നുപറഞ്ഞതു് receiving സെറ്റോ distributing സെറ്റോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. അരവിന്ദാക്ഷമേനോൻ.—Distributing സെറ്റാണു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ.—ഇവിടെ ബീച്ചിൽ വെക്കണമെന്നാരംഭിച്ചിട്ടവർ ഇതു് distributing സെറ്റാണെന്നു ധരിച്ചിട്ടില്ലായിരിക്കണം. ബീച്ചിൽ കൂടുന്നവരെ രസിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ ഒരു receiving സെറ്റാണു് വേണ്ടതു്. കൊച്ചി രാജ്യത്തു് നാനാഭാഗത്തേയ്ക്കും ഉപകാരപ്പെടണമെങ്കിൽ ബീച്ചിൽ വെച്ചാൽ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. അതിനു ശരിയായ സ്ഥലം തൃശ്ശിവപേരൂരാണു്. പ്രമേയത്തിൽ ഇന്ന സ്ഥലത്തുവേണമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ലെങ്കിലും ചിലർ ഏറണാകുളത്തുതന്നെ വേണമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ ആ സംഗതിയെ പറ്റിമാത്രം രണ്ടുവാക്കു പറയാമെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചതാണു്. ഈ പ്രമേയം സർവ്വമെന്റു സ്വീകരിച്ചു് അതനുസരിച്ചു് പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം കൊച്ചിരാജ്യത്തുള്ള എല്ലാവർക്കും ഉപകാരപ്പെടുത്തുവാൻ ശ്രമിക്കണമെന്നു മാത്രമേ എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളൂ.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I am constrained to oppose this resolution. I had to oppose a similar motion of the Hon'ble Member for Vadakkancheri for the opening of an aquarium. There are ever so many luxuries for man to enjoy. All these have their educative, moral, aesthetic and other values: But the question is whether we can afford to maintain these luxuries, whether the poor tax payer's money should be spent on such things. In the face of the resolution asking the Government to cut down the salaries of officers and in the face of the pitifully low pay of policemen, peons and menial servants to say that we ought to have a radio installation or a broad-casting station, cannot be regarded as a reasonable proposal. For these reasons, I oppose the resolution.

Deputy President.—The mover can speak

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The resolution was accepted.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—It was accepted by the Government and not by the House. I wish only to add one or two

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

words about the range of reception that was alluded to by the Hon'ble Member for Engineering. The range of reception for the Bombay set is 150 miles. But as a matter of fact, though with some defects, we generally pick up the messages or information, whatever that may be, even at Ernakulam which is about 600 miles away from Bombay. Therefore, when we say that the range of reception is only for a particular set so many miles, we are not to conclude that those living beyond that range can have no benefit whatever. Therefore, when we say a set with a 30 miles range, we are not to conclude that people can be benefited only to that distance and that distance only. In other words, if we get a 30 miles range set in Ernakulam, it is not places 30 miles distant from Ernakulam only that will be benefited, but much beyond also. Therefore, I have only said in my resolution, a suitable centre. I know the tomorrow that is to rise in Trichur, may claim the benefit, if a benefit is to be granted by the Government. If Government is willing to grant any benefit to any part of Cochin, certainly the first claimant is Trichur. I don't know why.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—We have got plenty of money.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Then install your own set. I am not replying to him. What I say is, therefore, even if the set is only of a guaranteed range of 30 miles, if it is established or erected in Ernakulam, every corner of the State is benefited. The only difference is this. Where the broad-casting programme is originally delivered that could be transmitted to the different stations. So, if original programme has to be delivered in Trichur it is only the people or the programme that could be availed of in Trichur that can be broad-casted to the whole State. On the other hand, if it is at Ernakulam, perhaps, there are the central institutions like the College, the Chief Court, the Government itself, this Council itself.

Deputy President.—The resolution is 'suitable centre'. You are discussing about the centre. So don't discuss.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—In fact, I don't want to discuss the comparative merits. It is equally suitable as Trichur. That is the only conclusion that I want to arrive at. With these few words, though the Government have accepted the resolution, as it will enable or rather strengthen the hands of Government if the House also is for it, I press the resolution.

The resolution was put to votes and carried.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan being absent the following resolution and its amendment were considered withdrawn.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—"*This Council recommends to the Government that Graduates should not be employed as teachers in primary schools.*"

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